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~~INFORMATIVE SECRET REPORT~~

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 6 December 1948

SUBJECT Current Political Activities of Giovanni Gronchi

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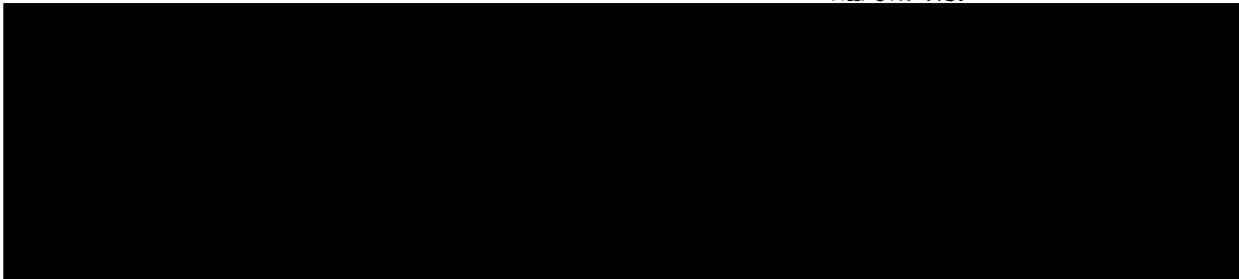
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



SOURCE

1. Socialist and Communist leaders reportedly are following the political activities of Giovanni Gronchi with particular interest. They believe that he intends to strengthen the leftist tendencies of the Partito Democrazia Cristiana (PDC) by means of a series of reforms which, in certain instances, would be even more advanced and more easily brought to realization than the reforms suggested by the leftist parties themselves.
2. Gronchi is opposed to any move which might endanger the unity of the PDC; however, he intends to carry out his plans of reform in spite of the inevitable opposition of the majority of the executives of the PDC. He well knows that one of his most stubborn opponents will be Alcide De Gasperi himself, who already has endeavored to gain time by proposing that the next congress be postponed.
3. De Gasperi is acquainted with Gronchi's intention of launching the project of his reforms, which are in contrast with the principles of the conservative and rightist currents of the PDC.
4. It seems, however, that the innovations suggested by Gronchi are supported by many PDC executives as well as by about seventy PDC deputies.
5. It is believed that Gronchi plans to foster closer collaboration with the other parties represented in the present government, especially with the Partito Repubblicano Italiano and Giuseppe Saragat's followers, with a view to succeeding in the vital task of creating a well-disciplined, powerful group to which should adhere all workers who are anxious to combine the Socialist ideologies with the principles of the Catholic faith, but who do not wish to renounce either one.
6. The possibility of Gronchi's idea being brought to realization reportedly is causing considerable alarm among both the Socialists, and the Communists. Some members of these two parties who expressed their satisfaction for what

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they consider the prelude to an imminent split in the ranks of the PDC were reminded that Gronchi's initiative might represent a powerful blow to the Communists and Socialists, and affect unfavorably either propaganda for the next few years; hence, the serious apprehension of the Communist executives.

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